Title: Need to withdraw the move to close Swadeshi Cotton Mill in Pondicherry. − Laid.

* SHRI M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): The Swadeshi Cotton Mill is one of the ancient textile mills of the Union Territory of Pondicherry established by the French Administration. Now NTC, which is managing the Swadeshi Cotton Mill, is proposing to close down the mill on the ground that it is incurring losses. This move is ill-conceived and would affect the livelihood of several workers depending on this mill. Besides, it would also add to the unemployment problem. It may be mentioned that the Government of Pondicherry has already created a Pondicherry Textile Corporation, which is managing the Anglo-French Textiles. It is suggested that the Swadeshi Cotton Mill instead of being closed may be merged with the Pondicherry Textile Corporation.

The hon. Minister for Textiles is requested to prevail upon the National Textile Corporation not to proceed with the closure of Swadeshi Cotton Mill at Pondicherry.